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April 9
2015



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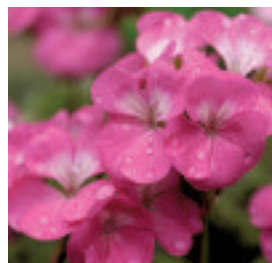
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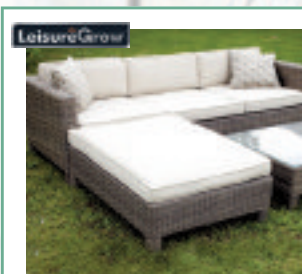
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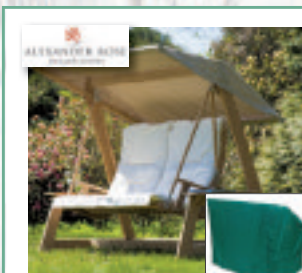
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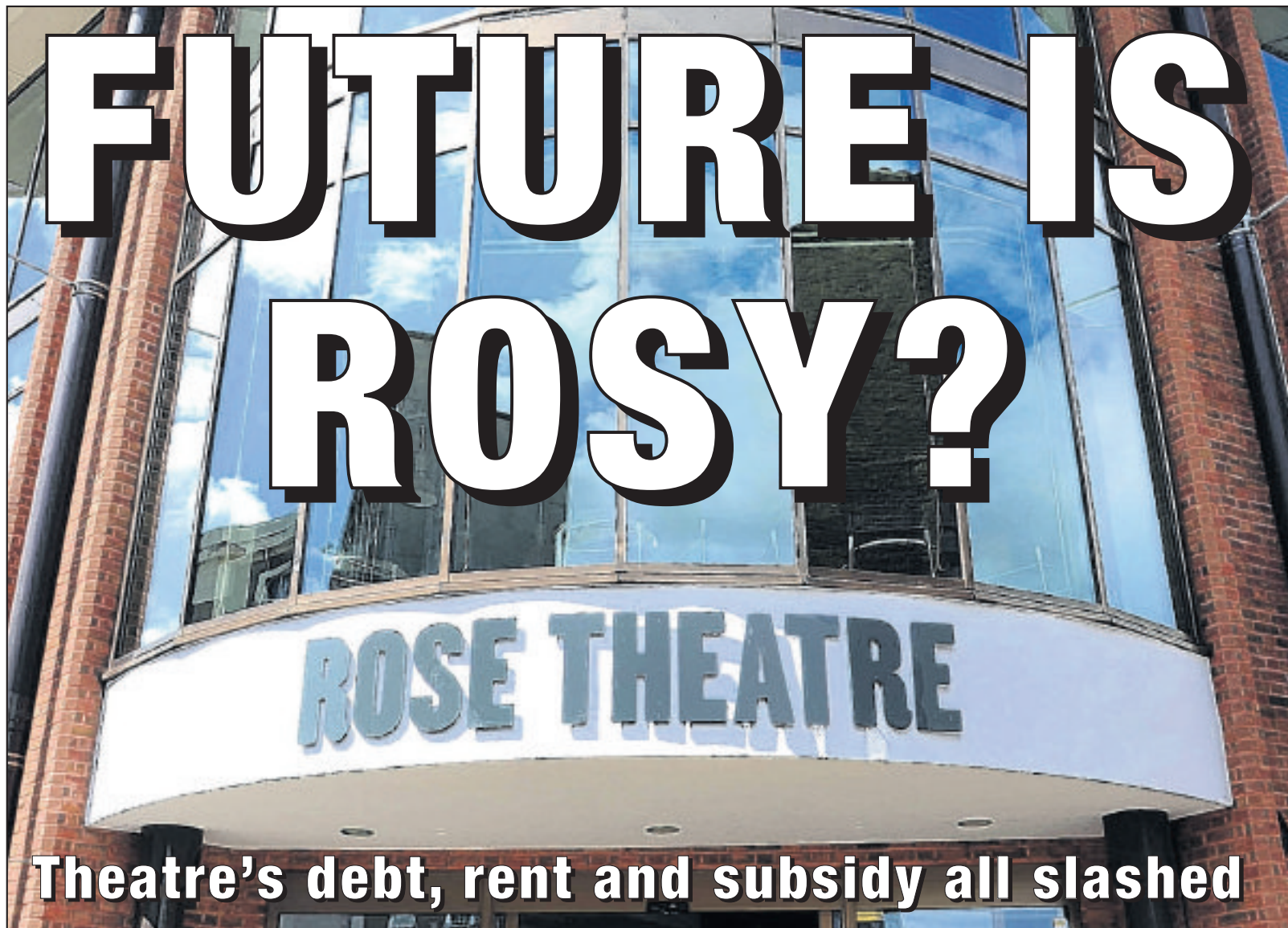
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REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

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london.newsquest.co.uk*



Kingston Council has struck a new deal with the Rose Theatre that will see the venue's rent slashed by £115,000 a year and a £1.75m loan written off.

The borough's ruling Conservative administration has drawn up a new arrangement that will cut the theatre's rent to just £35,000 from £150,000.

In a report due to be heard by councillors next week, officers said rent was "much too high" considering the nature of the building and the fact it could not be sold or assigned to another party.

In return, the Rose's annual

£500,000 funding from the council has been cut to £265,000 a year, and will cover the costs of free school tickets and council-run and community events.

The Kingston Theatre Trust, which runs the theatre, will also receive an additional £52,000 from the council, gradually reducing to zero in 2020.

There had been fears the Rose would see its council support scrapped in the wake of the Conservatives' victory in last year's local elections.

Council leader Kevin Davis suggested after his election in May that the Rose would have to make money if it were to survive.

But the report also notes that closing the Rose would initially cost £514,000, and £296,000 for

every year after the building remained empty in costs including security, business rates and maintenance.

Councillor David Glasspool, lead member for arts, leisure and heritage, said: "These new simplified arrangements clarify the relationship between the Rose and the council and should assist the Rose in securing external funding and making financial plans for its long term future."

Rose Theatre chief executive Robert O'Dowd said: "These changes are important for the Rose and the new agreement is welcome."

"Removing the historic debt and equipment lease frees the trust of that debt on the balance sheet and so will help us to attract inde-

pendent philanthropists and funders who, together with the borough and Kingston University, are equally essential to the future of the Rose."

Liberal Democrat leader Councillor Liz Green welcomed the agreement, but added: "We need to look at how many schools want to take up these tickets and how much running community events in the theatre costs. If that goes over the £265,000 set aside then we might run into problems."

The new arrangement comes after the theatre's latest accounts showed a loss of more than £50,000 last year.

Despite the deficit the theatre performed significantly better than the previous year when it lost more than £200,000.

Ticket sales were up almost £450,000 with the Christmas performance The Snow Gorilla performing particularly well.

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Cops tell driver to delete pics under terrorism act

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

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A man was pulled over by police and questioned over terrorism concerns after he took pictures of police cars parked in a bus stand.

Kieron Power, 54, took the pictures in Kingston town centre after his wife was handed a ticket for stopping in the bay in March.

Road markings labelling the bay, in the Bottoms, had been covered up by the police vehicles, he claimed. But after he snapped the shots and began driving home to Hinchley Wood, he was pulled over by two police cars with blue lights flashing.

He said: "When the first car pincered me in front, and the other one was right up my



Offending snaps: The police vehicles in the bus stand

tail, I thought, 'Goodness, what have I done?'

"They told me they were stopping me under the prevention of terrorism."

"I had to show them my photos and they wanted them deleted."

Mr Power, a part-time delivery driver, refused and was

allowed to continue home after he explained why he had taken the pictures.

A Kingston police spokesman said: "The man was initially requested to delete the photos, however after the officer clarified the Metropolitan Police Service's approach towards

photography of police officers and vehicles with his supervisors, he realised the man was allowed to keep them.

"The police vehicles parked on the bus stand are part of the Met's Safer Transport Command and have been given permission by the local authority to park there."

Police guidance on the Terrorism Act 2000 says: "Members of the public and the media do not need a permit to film or photograph in public places, and police have no power to stop them filming or photographing incidents or police personnel."

Mr Power said he thought the police ought to have "just come around with it in a gently, gently way instead of the prevention of terrorism".

He has appealed against the parking ticket, he said.

Superdrug shuts shop

One of New Malden's popular high street stores has closed.

Superdrug, in High Street, closed its doors for good on April 4.

The site is set to become a budget Saver's store, which will open on April 17.

All shop employees have been offered the opportunity to transfer to the new store.

A Superdrug spokesman said: "We would like to thank all our customers for their support over the years and confirm their nearest Superdrug store can now be found in Kingston."



All change: New Malden Superdrug is to become a Saver store

KT90867



Dirty job: The Poosaders spray dog mess with washable paint to shame pet owners

Caped Poosaders get scoop on poop

Children are fighting back against antisocial dog owners who let their pets poo in the street and do not clean up after them.

The anonymous crime-busting "Poosaders" have been venturing around Kingston in their superhero costumes spraying excrement they see on the pavement with washable paint to shame unruly dog owners into cleaning up after their animals.

The worst street was named as Canbury Avenue, where they found in some places it was hard for pedestrians to walk on the pavement because of the sheer volume of poo.

People have pointed out that the bright paint helps stop people stepping in the mess.

Facebook user Jacqui Lee said: "Temporary paint is a good idea. It's not always careful adults who walk

around looking where they tread, it's when it gets on the kids' shoes and the buggy wheels it becomes a smelly nuisance indoors."

However, not everyone has been so happy with the Poosaders' mission.

Baz Carter wrote on Facebook: "The problem I have with this that it's even more unsightly than seeing droppings. I'd also point out that some I saw highlighted was fox scat."

All change: New Malden Superdrug is to become a Saver store

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152,505 pages are looked at every month (Jan-June 2014)



'Dearly missed': Flowers in Penrhyn Road left for Hina Shamim, inset

Deadlinex KT90886

Tributes to student killed in crash near university

REPORTERS

JON SHARMAN
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A student killed in a horrendous car crash that saw seven others hospitalised has been described by friends and family as bubbly, kind and "an amazing person".

Hina Shamim, 21, died at the side of Penrhyn Road after the crash with a white BMW M3 and a 418 bus on Tuesday, March 31.

She was on her way from her nearby flat to the Kingston University library, to work on her final piece of coursework.

The 34-year-old driver of the BMW was arrested on

suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, and has been bailed until early July while police investigate.

Miss Shamim, a sports science and nutrition student originally from Peterborough, was just weeks short of her 22nd birthday.

Her cousin, Tybba Aziz, said: "Hina was an amazing person."

"She always saw the best in everyone."

"I will never believe she has gone. She loved Kingston, she felt it was her home."

"She was a health fanatic, refused to eat anything remotely unhealthy and put everyone around her on a diet too."

"Hina was excited about graduating from university."

"We had planned to go to Morocco to celebrate."

"She is loved by so many and will be dearly missed."

Friend Monty Sajdewa, 24, said on Wednesday: "I was calling her last night. When she wasn't answering I thought she'd fallen asleep or something."

"When someone told me I thought it might be an April fools. I just can't believe it was her."

Another family member, Adeela Tahir, 25, said: "I'm in total shock. She was a lovely girl, really kind."

Darrell Stewart, a colleague of Miss Shamim's at Uniqllo in Kingston, said: "She was very bubbly, very enthusiastic about her sports science."

Penrhyn Road was flooded

by blue lights after the crash at about 9pm on Tuesday, as emergency workers tried to save Miss Shamim's life and attend to the other injured.

Seven people, including the BMW driver and five passengers – two as young as four – were taken to hospital. All have since been discharged, apart from one four-year-old boy who was in a stable condition as this newspaper went to press.

Police have asked witnesses to come forward. Call Detective Sergeant John Hartfree on 020 8543 5157 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

● Did you know Miss Shamim? Pay tribute by emailing newsdesk@kingstonguardian.co.uk.

Teenager charged with McDonald's stabbing

A teenager has appeared in court in connection with a stabbing near New Malden McDonald's on Monday night last week.

Basel Elmaarfi, 18, of Ullswater Crescent, Putney, appeared in Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, April 1, charged with grievous bodily harm.

Alexander Danabalan, 40, was found in Sussex Road with

stab wounds to his back and leg after police were called to reports of a fight just after 9pm on Monday, March 30.

He was taken to a south London hospital where his injuries were deemed serious but not life-threatening.

Mr Elmaarfi was not asked to enter a plea and was remanded in custody. He will appear at Kingston Crown Court on Tuesday, April 14.



Police cordon: The aftermath of the incident in New Malden on Monday, March 30

Alcoholic bath death

An alcoholic accidentally drowned after falling into his bath, an inquest heard.

Michael John Murphy, 53, of Brinkley Burritt Court, Norbiton, was found unconscious and submerged in

water in his bathroom by flat-mate Mark Baldwin on June 24, 2013.

A doctor's report just before Mr Murphy's death said he had been suffering from blackouts and hallucinations.

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Crash: Pictures from the accident scene



Photos: Jon Sharmam

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Two faces of politics: Clegg with Lib Dem supporters while TUSC members, inset, hurled abuse

Clegg heckled over broken fees promise

REPORTER

RACHAEL BURFORD

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london.newsquest.co.uk



Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg was heckled by tuition fees protesters when he came to Surbiton to support Ed Davey in his election campaign this week.

Members of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) gathered outside the Grove pub in Grove Road, where Mr Davey and Mr Clegg had been meeting supporters and press on Easter Monday.

As they left a small group of TUSC members, who had been denied entry to the pub by police, chanted "Nick Clegg lied to me, he said uni would be free".

Mr Clegg and Mr Davey ignored the group and continued talking to the Liberal Democrat supporters who had also gathered.

The protest made national news headlines – and a minor

celebrity of TUSC member Richard Donnelly, who berated Mr Clegg through a mega-phone as he spoke to supporters.

Mr Donnelly, a well known left-wing activist in Kingston and member of Kingston United Against Fascism, said: "They won't be allowed to get away with this for much longer or there won't be any MPs in five years time. No one trusts them."

Gabby Thorpe, who is standing as the TUSC candidate in the upcoming Grove ward byelection, said: "We came here today because Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats are going around saying the Tories did this and the Tories did that, but they have been in bed with them for the last five years."

Laurel Fogarty, TUSC's parliamentary candidate for Kingston and Surbiton, added: "Clegg and his Liberal Democrat colleagues joined forces with the Conservatives and broke several of their

election promises, notably on university tuition fees.

"They have refused to accept that their agenda of making ordinary people pay for the crisis of the rich has failed."

Mr Davey had told supporters who had gathered in the pub garden that he had been very proud of the way he had fought against "Conservative Party cuts" in the borough.

He said he was especially proud of his campaign to save Kingston Hospital's accident and emergency unit and his ambition to get Surbiton and Kingston stations rezoned.

He said: "Almost everyone now agrees we should be rezoned."

"The only person getting in the way is George Osborne who refuses to release the money to make it happen."

Watch a video of the protest
kingstonguardian.co.uk/
generalelection2015

'A tragic accident' killed Jamie, 19

The death of a Kingston University student whose body was found in the River Thames after a night out, was a "genuine tragic accident", a coroner has ruled.

Jamie Smith, 19, originally from Grimsby, died after a night out in Kingston more than two years ago, West London Coroner's Court heard on Wednesday last week.

The second year medical biochemistry student, who lived in Villiers Road, Surbiton, was seen on CCTV leaving Bacchus bar at about 2am on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

The footage also showed Mr Smith, who worked at Kingston's Jelly Bugs children's play centre, collide with a door and fall on his back.

Coroner Chinyere Inyama said: "It is clear from the CCTV he was under the influence of alcohol."



'Much missed': Jamie Smith

He added: "He was very unsteady on his feet and he fell over twice."

Mr Smith was found after divers began a search near Barge

Walk, Hampton Wick, following reports of a person in the river near Kingston.

The teenager was found with enough alcohol in his blood to have been 50 per cent over the drink-drive limit, Mr Inyama said.

He added the fact that Mr Smith had all of his belongings with him when he was found indicated his death was unlikely to have been the result of a criminal act.

At the time of his death, Kingston University's course director Dr Nigel Page said: "Jamie was a very polite and courteous young man who was always able to express himself well."

"He was very involved in university life and was a course representative – a role he performed extremely diligently. Jamie will be very much missed by staff and students alike."

Newsagent's attack on shopper girl, 11

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

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A newsagent worker who sexually assaulted an 11-year-old girl as she shopped for a friend's birthday card in Kingston has been jailed.

Selvaratnam Muthurajah, 49, assaulted the girl during a shift at Best Value in Tudor Drive last October, and was told by a judge today he had caused the child "real psychological damage".

As she looked for a birthday card for a friend, he approached her and suggested a number of cards.

He put one in her shopping basket and, as he withdrew his hand, touched her sexually over her clothes, Kingston Crown Court heard today.

He touched her a second time

after she had moved away into the sweets section, prosecutors said.

Sentencing Muthurajah, of Meadowbank, Berrylands, to eight months in prison, Judge Susan Tapping said: "Life for her at home and at school has not been the same since."

"About a month earlier she had started at secondary school. Her parents were gently and carefully encouraging her in her first steps of independent movement."

"She had the bad luck to be in there alone – that is no one's fault. Nor could it have been foreseen that you would take advantage of her. You have changed her life and inflicted real psychological damage. It is unsurprising to read that the whole family has been affected."

"I would be failing in my public duty if I did not send you to prison today."

"These courts will protect children from sexual predators."

Muthurajah, a father of three who currently works at Asda in Kingston, was also handed a sexual harm prevention order, designed to protect his victim, that excludes him from entering a swathe of the borough upon his release.

It will not be lifted until the girl leaves full-time education.

Rabin Govindarajah, defending, said his client played a "pivotal" part in his family's life and was a role model for his three children.

He said: "He accepts the criminality of what he has pleaded to. He is deeply ashamed."

Muthurajah, wearing a shirt and hoodie in the dock, appeared impassive as his sentence was handed down and stood with his arms folded as Judge Tapping read her remarks.

Daring couture



Kingston Museum is used to giving people a glimpse into the borough's past, but last week they played host to a far more modern event.

To celebrate 140 years of Kingston School of Art the museum hosted a glamorous fashion show showcasing the designs of recent graduates.

Each piece of clothing was designed to echo the daring couture found within the exhibition at Kingston Museum.

Road rage lie

A man has been ordered to pay £200 compensation and wear an electronic tag for eight weeks after he was found guilty of a road rage assault.

Philippe Berry, 49, of Fullers Way North, Tolworth, had denied the racially aggravated assault against Mahendar Surendar, but was found guilty at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on March 19.

Berry had told the court Mr Surendar, who had completed an exam in Kingston, was tail-gating him and nearly hit a man at a pedestrian crossing, which was denied.

Berry claimed Mr Surendar wanted to fight him after he confronted him over his "dangerous driving".

The confrontation happened in the Garth in Hampton Hill.

Magistrate Laura Boyle said: "We found Mr Surendar to be a credible, compelling and convincing witness."

"Mr Berry said his actions were instinctive and in self-defence – we note he was the one to approach Mr Surendar and don't accept his version of events."

Berry was sentenced at Wimbledon on Thursday, March 26, when he was also ordered to pay £620 court costs.



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Survey stalls because of 'mail blunder'

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD

rachael.burford@
london.newsquest.co.uk



Kingston Council is blaming a Royal Mail blunder for failing to deliver letters about a controversial care costs consultation.

More than 1,000 letters were meant to go out on Monday, March 16, to those directly

affected by plans to increase care contributions, but many claimed they had not received one. The letters confirmed public talks on plans to assess people on 100 per cent of their net income, rather than the current 75 per cent, were being extended to May 10.

The council said the letters were not delivered by Royal Mail and it had "indefinitely suspended" the consultation.

Former Conservative Councillor Lynne Finnerty said: "This suspension gives the council an ideal opportunity to scrap the consultation altogether."

"The consultation was flawed anyway with two loaded questions and officers omitting the crucial question about the impact of the huge increase."

"Disabled and older people

and their carers have experienced anxiety and uncertainty since February. The council should abandon this proposal."

Carers were also angered after council budget papers, published in February, outlined a saving of £240,000 by assessing people on the proposed changes before the end of the consultation.

The process was originally

due to end on March 31, but after complaints this had been extended prior to the suspension.

Councillor Julie Pickering, lead member for health and social care, previously admitted she was "embarrassed" by the way the consultation had been dealt with.

She said: "We have decided the only way the council can be fair to all is to suspend this

consultation for the time being. We thank all those who have responded already and we will now talk further with our residents and their families who would be affected by any changes to charging, to find a way forward."

A Royal Mail spokesman said: "We are investigating this as a matter of urgency and will share our findings with the council."



Filming: ITV crews set the scene for a new drama series

Street is a thriller set

A quiet Kingston street was transformed into a set for big budget television drama.

ITV were filming a top secret thriller in Springfield Road until April 3 and production crews and their lorries had been lining the street.

It is thought the programme is the newly commissioned six-part series The Forgiven due on screens later this year.

ROADWORKS: Hook Road will be closed northbound for two weeks for gas main replacement work. Southern Gas Networks' roadworks will shut the road between Hook roundabout and Ditton Road from Monday, April 6. Southbound traffic will not be affected. A diversion, including for buses, will be in place through Hook Rise North, Kingston bypass, Hook Rise North, Tolworth Broadway, Ewell Road, Ditton Road and Hook Road.

BENTALL BOSS: A new Bentall Centre director has been appointed. Sam Eastwood will replace Robert Ritchie when he retires in May after more than 20 years at the Kingston shopping centre. Mr Ritchie said: "It has been a thoroughly enjoyable 23 years seeing the centre evolve from just a skeleton of steel into the leading centre it is today."

QUESTION TIME: Voluntary groups and charities have teamed up to put on a hustings event ahead of the general election. The groups, which include Kingston Voluntary Action, Creative Youth and Kingston Race and Equalities Council, will host the question time at Kingston Quaker Centre in Fairfield East, on Monday, April 27, from 7pm to 9pm. For more details and to book a place email admin@kcabs.org.uk.

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ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Tesco plans revealed

Better...leisure facilities (at last they listen), but 350 parking spaces for 705 homes. Oh dear.

ARNIE12

About time this land was used, the need for housing cannot be denied. But we are coming up to a general election and I suspect that one party will try to find reasons for refusal. Watch this space.

BEVERLY RA

Parent reacts to scuffle

Does PTA stand for Patronising Teacher Association? It put down the rogue parent as if they were a little kid.

NUMBER1BADBOY

George the barber retires

The Lamberts have had the pleasure of getting a great hair cut. The customer service deserves rewards; I wish you a long retirement.

MART13



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If we cannot reach a resolution between us then you can contact IPSO by email at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at IPSO, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London EC1N 2JD.

If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the "report this post" function online next to the comment.

Service move lacked plan

Well, it seems we are there at last. In September 2015, adult education will move to 46 to 50 Coombe Road, New Malden.

It has taken more than four long years of lack of information, false promises, council procrastination, and complete silence from Scott Herbertson.

During this time the struggle to find a better site for a secondary school, thwarted at every turn by a council with no apparent long-term strategy whatsoever, sought only the easiest option, regardless of the impact on all the services then at the North Kingston Centre, and the subsequent distress and pressure on Orchard Hill College, and then Newent House.

During this time, little or no information was given to students or tutors, let alone the public being informed.

During a council meeting, Councillor Liz Green stated that adult education would be given a much better site than the North Kingston Centre, much better facilities and a site that was much more accessible. Hard to visualise that one, Coun Green.

Even then the move did not go smoothly.

First, the children's referral unit, together with the history rooms, were to be sited at the Dukes Centre.

Now it seems the much-loved history rooms at the North Kingston Centre, currently with-

out a home, will be at Guildhall in September.

The voluntary bus service, Rakat, was given a totally unsuitable site, and is currently being moved again.

It would seem to me that having a long-term plan to get it right in the first place would be what we would expect of our council, and would certainly be more cost effective in the long term.

At the council meeting on March 18, Scott Herbertson said they were aware of the need to have a longer term solution for services, and to try to identify premises. Has he not then been "aware" for the past three years when we realised that the North Kingston Centre would close?

How much awareness does a £97,000-£98,000 pay slip require to have?

It is disappointing that after 30-odd years there will no longer be adult education in north Kingston, but hopefully that too will change in the future.

However, with all that having been said, we can at last look forward to a much more positive future, with Sam Burgess now at the helm of adult education, I know a great many people will take advantage of all the marvellous courses that are offered.

It is a great social asset to the area, and people young and old, will I know, benefit.

CHRISTINE ARNOLD
 Ham

University benefits all

I am most surprised by the decision of the local council to reject the planning application from Kingston University to renew and replace its very poor building stock in Penrhyn Road.

Throughout the country, universities contribute enormously to the sustainability and growth of local economies.

Kingston University, in local terms, is a relatively large business with a turnover of more than £200m.

The multiplier effect means the impact of the spending power of staff and students is therefore very significant to the wealth of the community.

The university creates jobs for local people and educational opportunities for local people. The majority of Kingston University students come from the local area, which also makes the decision appear somewhat perverse.

I hope the council will find ways to reconsider its position.

PAM ACKROYD
 Via email



Borough view

A reader sent in this photo of Raven's Ait. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it with details of where you took it to jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk.

Learn respect and stop behaving like children

Please can someone tell me when it became acceptable to become so aggressive and to allow yourself to think that nothing is your responsibility, even down to raising your own children?

In recent years we have seen a decline in the moral standards of a minority, who believe they can shout, scream and threaten others in order to get their own way.

When will we take a stand and say no, you will not talk to me that way; you will grow up, calm down, learn some respect and perhaps even some self-respect and accept that sometimes things

will not go your way and just deal with it.

This includes parents who will back up their children over a teacher when the child has behaved appallingly. You are raising your children to become carbon-copies of yourselves.

Why do you believe that you should not have to work hard and raise the children you chose to have in a way that will make them become successful in their own right and not another statistic?

Why do you park in disabled bays or on the pavements when

you are not entitled to?

None of us have entitlement to anything. We have a right to live in a society and a borough where we are not afraid to tell someone when they are behaving like a petulant child. What is wrong with these people?

Please take a moment before you shout and scream at others and swear at your own children. I hate walking the streets and I hate driving even more so because of all this unnecessary aggression and self-importance.

ANDREA TUCKER
 Chessington

No reason to trust politicians

If the national political parties wonder why they are so distrusted they need look no further than their own hypocrisy in attacking the closure of Sure Start children's centres.

The Conservative administration gave notice to Surrey County Council, saying it would no longer run the centres.

Elmbridge Council's portfolio holder for children's centres, Councillor Elmer, said on March 18: "We were extremely saddened

in January this year when we were told by Surrey County Council that it was going to close two of our centres."

She did not say that her Conservative administration told the county council on November 19 last year that Elmbridge would no longer run the centres, precipitating the closure.

Councillors outside the cabinet were not consulted.

COUNCILLOR RUTH LYON
 Thames Ditton

Developers will create a hell hole

Tolworth is besieged by property developers, especially near the roundabout. Tesco still wants to develop the Hook Rise South site.

The London mayor has "puffed" a tunnel for the A3, seemingly assuming the Tesco scheme, which his office is meant to vet, will go ahead.

Despite this process our council leader is looking at the tunnel. The head of CNM Estates wants to add tall blocks to the tower site.

Each idea feeds off the other for profit or housing targets, though no one would want to live near the resulting hell hole.

When Ed Davey recently checked on my vote we did not discuss Tolworth. His publicity has claimed he works against Tesco. Will he now stand up for Tolworth to save it from fulfilling the descriptions "grim" and "a dump"?

MICHAEL HOPE
 Tolworth

TWEETS of the WEEK



@christinartnd:
 Put off ever working in London by the disgusting morning commuters in Surbiton.

@juicy_pigeon:
 Ugh, @virginmedia is playing up and not letting me watch Netflix in this lovely weather.... I think it's a conspiracy to get me out the flat.



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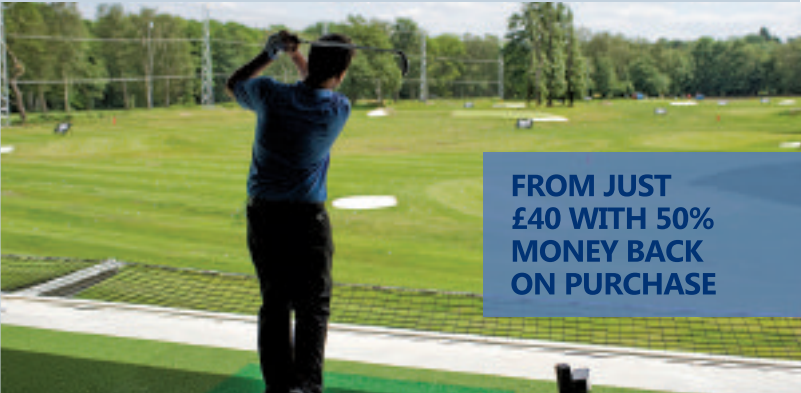
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Women seeking men

WHEN TWO BECOME ONE Affectionate, loving and outgoing Esher woman, 39, 5'6", single mum, professional, likes to enjoy life, looking for an efficient, sociable male, to share and enjoy the future together. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127814

HIDDEN DEPTHS Lady, faithful, outgoing black lady, 39, living in London, seeking a white man, who is honest, faithful and caring, for a loving relationship and to eventually settle down with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 131349

LOOKING FOR LOVE Loyal, 45 year old SW London female, brown hair, blue eyes, smoker, animal lover, great sense of humour. Would like to meet a nice, genuine male, 38-50, for friendship and a similar relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 187190 or send a text to 80360

TODAY IS THE DAY Slim, attractive and elegant Asian lady, 45, enjoys travel, socialising, keep fit and the quiet life, seeking a similar, sincere man, for friendship, love and lots of happy times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138920

QUITE A CATCH Professional, quiet, charming Croydon woman, 46, 5'2", blonde, enjoys cosy nights in, would like to meet a kind, lovable gent, to care for each other and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 148591

THE GREAT ESCAPE Fun, youthful South London Caribbean lady 46, 5'7", GSOH, likes the arts, cinema, dining out and more, now looking for a tall, friendly and caring man, to share a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138474

A BETTER TOMORROW Down-to-earth, 46 year old South West London female, 5'7", blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys holidays, days out at the coast, meals out, cinema. WILM a male for a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 165638

THERE IS ONLY ONE Bubbly Chessington female, 49, enjoys dining, wine bars, dancing and coffee mornings, would like to meet a similar, lovable male, for nights out, fun times and lasting friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153855 or send a text to 80360

PASSIONATE LADY Glamorous Carshalton female, 50, slim brunette, 5'2", hazel-green eyes, into music, live music, concerts, galleries and exhibitions, would like to meet an attractive, intelligent, local male. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 185628 or send a text to 80360

THAT CERTAIN SOMETHING Attractive, slim, thoughtful, green-eyed Surrey woman, 50, 5'8", interested in travel, current affairs and more, would like to find an independent, caring male, for friendship and sex. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 142253

SEEKING MY MATCH Genuine 50 year old Watlington lady, slim, happy, honest, reliable and kind, hobbies include flying, swimming, sewing, running and socialising, seeking a kind, similar male, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 174508 or send a text to 80360

CLOSER THAN CLOSE Intelligent, fun and confident Sutton female, 51, 5'6", slim/medium build, non smoker, enjoys travel and the countryside, now seeking a genuine and lovable male, for loving times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 143475 or send a text to 80360

THE ONE TO WATCH Fun-loving South London woman, 52, outgoing, smart and attractive, enjoys Art, beaches, trips and more, seeking a confident, fun and intelligent man, for good times and romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 117856

BE MY SWEETHEART Young-looking, petite blonde, 52, likes animals and sports, GSOH, non smoker, would like to meet a genuine, easygoing male, 40-49, non smoker, into sports, living in the Surrey area. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132871

LIFE IS TO SHARE Kind, loving Tadworth lady, 52, 5'4", blonde, enjoys music, walks and all that life has to offer, looking for a genuine and honest guy, with GSOH, for love, fun and happiness. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 142340 or send a text to 80360

TRUE COLOURS Caring, attractive, slim South West London lady, 53, enjoys travel, nights out, cinema and more, would like to meet an honest and genuine guy, 5'7", for friendship and happiness. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 171850 or send a text to 80360

IN CERCA DI AMORE Bubbly and caring Mitcham female, 53, Italian, brunette, non smoker, enjoys dancing, theatre, badminton, holidays and dining, seeking an honest, professional man, for lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 167659

TRUE NATURE Divorced, attractive, slim feminine and bubbly Bexley female, 56, 5'1", short brown hair, brown eyes, enjoys swimming and the gym, socialising with friends and family, seeks soul mate, for TLC. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 107092

THE START OF SOMETHING Outgoing, fun feminine and bubbly Bexley female, 56, brunette, good sense of humour, enjoys theatre, dancing, holidays and more, seeks a non-smoking man, to share quality time with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 161720

A NEW DIRECTION Caring and sensitive Sipcup female, 57, 5'2", likes cinema, books, travel, history and country walks, looking for a charming and handsome man, for friendship, fun and loving times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 163557

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Honest, caring Caribbean female, 57, 5'5", medium build, enjoys travel, cinema, days out and more, would like to meet a sincere, romantic and trustworthy man, for lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 153471 or send a text to 80360

FUTURE TOGETHER Kind-hearted, sociable, 57 year old Twickenham female, good sense of humour, would like to meet a nice male for company, friendship and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 186970 or send a text to 80360

I'M COUNTING ON YOU Sweet, genuine, bright and humorous Epsom woman, 58, enjoys the arts, theatre, cinema, Radio 4 and a good chat over a glass of wine, now looking for a similar, smart chap, to love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 172331

SIMILAR INTERESTS? Kind, caring, loyal and faithful, 59 year old Surbiton female, 5'4", fair hair, non-smoker, good sense of humour, like holidays, sightseeing, day trips and theatre. Seeks a kind, caring male. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 181082

LIFE STARTS NOW Genuine, lovable and creative Bexleyheath girl, 59, looking to find a reflective, imaginative and considerate bloke, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 107320 or send a text to 80360

DREAM COME TRUE Friendly, mixed-race Bexleyheath single mum, 59, enjoys cooking, music, walks in the park and much more, now searching for a genuine, affectionate white male, for great times and lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 109898

THE COMMITTED KIND Kind-hearted, polite and reliable Twickenham woman, 60, 5'4", enjoys art, music, theatre, ballet, opera and places of interest. Seeks a considerate, genuine man, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 174386

DANCE PARTNER WANTED Retired, professional, early 60's, slim, attractive, Wimbledon female, easygoing, 5'4". Would like to meet a reasonably fit male, in his 60's for dance classes and friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 158388 or send a text to 80360

LIFE'S SIMPLE PLEASURES Pretty, slim, genuine Surrey girl, 62, 5'8", Auburn hair, youthful, loves classical music, theatre, France and much more, looking for a tall, non-smoking gent, for lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 468587

COME DANCE WITH ME Active, blonde Surrey girl, 64, blonde, non smoker, loves stepping out, would like to meet a fun, honest, caring guy, to share interests, romance and to dance into the sunset with me. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 140757 or send a text to 80360

A BIG ADVENTURE Friendly Isleworth female, 64, 5'6", brown eyes, red-brown hair, average build, dog owner, grown up children, seeking a fun-loving male in his 60s for friendship, good times and lots of laughter. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 188920

HAPPY DAYS Kind-hearted, sincere, 64 year old Sutton female, dog owner, enjoys walking, meals out, cinema, '60s and '70s music, meals out and places of interest. Seeking a gent for company and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 189053

DESERVING OF LOVE Retired and romantic South London woman, 65, 5'6", looking for a nice, non-smoking gent, medium build, who enjoys days out, dining, laughter and socialising. Are you the one for me? Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 143424

SIDE BY SIDE Down-to-earth, generous and outgoing Jamaican London girl, 65, medium build, enjoys dancing, cinema, days out and quiet times, just looking for a charming man, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 177687

STRAIGHT TALKING Active, outgoing Epsom woman, 65, 5'2", blonde, blue eyes, likes dancing, gardening, socialising and adventure, searching for a fit, funny and genuine man, for company and good times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 122940

CAN YOU COMPARE? Honest and caring Kingston Upon Thames lady, 66, enjoys trips to the cinema, theatre and places of interest, would like to meet a nice, genuine man, to share friendship and enjoy life. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 151366 or send a text to 80360

LET THE SUN SHINE In Curvy, cuddly Kingston lady, 66, GSOH, likes cinema, meals out, places of interest and the coast, would like to meet a similar man, sociable, fun and honest, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 126146 or send a text to 80360

ENDLESS LOVE Happy-go-lucky, friendly, 67 year old Sutton female, medium build, Auburn hair, blue eyes, non-smoker, like singing and karaoke. Would like to meet a male to share his life with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 186668

YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY Outgoing, brown-eyed Surbiton lady, 67, long dark hair, likes cooking, eating out, dancing and holidays abroad, seeking a nice gent, for companionship and lots more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 461376

HOOK, LINE AND SINKER Energetic, thoughtful and reliable Croydon lady, 67, 5'2", curvy, brunette, with many interests, now searching for a stylish and focussed man, for fun, friendship and happy times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159455

THE SIMPLE PLEASURES Friendly, sincere and dedicated London female, widow, 68, enjoys socialising, music, travelling, WILM a genuine man, N/S, who is fair & loyal, to share peaceful, loving & harmonious relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159455

THE BETTER HALF Outgoing, kind and caring New Malden female, 68, 5'7", fair hair, brown eyes, enjoys music, dancing, keep fit and swimming, would like to meet a sociable male, for happy times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 170711

FLY ME TO THE MOON Curvy, bubbly and thoughtful Kingston Upon Thames woman, 69, with many active interests, now looking for sincere gentleman, who is fun, kind and, for friendship and maybe a lasting romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 453732

DANCE WITH ME Kind, loving and sincere, 71 year old Thames Ditton female, 5'3", dress smartly, enjoys social dancing, mainly Bollywood and Latin, meals out and cosy nights in. Seeking a kind man for company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 184729 or send a text to 80360

HAPPY TIMES Genuine, 74 year old Surbiton female, kind-hearted, caring, good natured, enjoys travelling, meals out and quizzes. Would like to meet a male companion for friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 189272

Men seeking women

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE Kind, honest and fun-loving, 23 year old Morden male, would like to meet a female, for good times and going out together. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 187726 or send a text to 80360

FUN TIMES AHEAD! Fun-loving, outgoing, 28 year old Twickenham male, blond hair, blue eyes, slim, would like to meet a female for fun and friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 187726 or send a text to 80360

PROVIDE THAT SPARK Intelligent, funny and attractive Guildford man, 38, great conversationalist, plays golf, searching for an equally kind and caring princess, to share interests, friendship and true love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 119408 or send a text to 80360

PURE KINDNESS Warm and friendly Surbiton male, 38, loves conversation, cooking, designing and the company of others, now seeking a natural and loving woman, with warmth and happiness to give. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 850776

LAUGHTER AND ROMANCE Charming, caring and sincere, 43 year old Croydon male, would like to meet a lovely lady, to take out, winning and crying and to enjoy great things with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 185878 or send a text to 80360

SPARKLE AND SHINE Slim Afro-Caribbean male, 44, 5'8", seeks friendly, warm-hearted female, age 25-38, for friendship at first and maybe more in the future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103675 or send a text to 80360

HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU Attractive, approachable, fashionable, 46 year old Balham male, non-smoker, would like to meet a non-smoking female to get to know. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 181214 or send a text to 80360

RESCUE ME Artistic, funny, friendly, 67 year old Sutton male, slim-athletic build, non-smoker, in search of a young, modern, professional, to build a lasting, happy future with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 183711 or send a text to 80360

MAKE IT COME TRUE Affectionate Isleworth male, 47, 6'2", athletic, non smoker, own home, enjoys swimming, walks, pubs, restaurants and travel, seeks chatty, slim female, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103086

THE GENUINE ARTICLE Honest, genuine and lovable Wallington male, 48, good sense of humour, all the usual interests, would now like to meet a similar female, for friendship and lasting, happy romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159369

THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE Happy, responsive and consistent Thornton Heath gent, 49, 6'4", med build, enjoys restaurants, home life and more, simply searching for a focused, selfless girl, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136250

NEW BEGINNINGS Genuine, 49 year old Sutton male, 5'10", fair hair, average build, like going to the gym and keeping fit, pub trips and night clubs. Seeks a female for happiness and fun. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 181804

COME WITH ME Animal-loving Epsom male, 50, 6ft, enjoys country walks, music and classic cars, searching for a decent-looking, honest woman, for those magic moments. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 467086

IN THE NAME OF LOVE Decent, attractive, solvent Purley male, 51, 5'11", medium build, likes all the normal things, simply searching for a lovely and happy, curvy female, for love and good times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127258

THAT'S THE TICKET Friendly, good-natured Surbiton male, 52, enjoys music, travel, cooking, walks, dining and more, searching for a friendly and honest woman, for fun, laughter and something to share. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 128520

THE ONE TO WATCH Positive, thoughtful and kind-hearted Tooting male, 57, 5'8", independent and genuine, would like to meet a warm, steady female, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 141003

NOTHING COMPARES Down-to-earth, genuine Greek-Cypriot man, 57, 5'7", searching for a reliable woman, for fun times and great friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 110838

SUGAR & SPICE Kind, easygoing London male, 58, 5'6", medium build, non smoker, enjoys books, walks, pubs and nights in, would like to meet an honest and tender female, to share romantic times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 173751 or send a text to 80360

MAKE LIFE BETTER Sincere, 59 year old male, 6ft, Virgo, own hair and teeth, keep fit, no ties, own home and car, would like to meet a lovely lady, for good company and maybe a tender female, for love and TLC. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 184850 or send a text to 80360

A FRESH START Sweet and sincere 5th London male, 59, 5'10", enjoys music, drives, the coast, countryside and weekends away, now searching for an honest, loyal woman, for close times and romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 453620 or send a text to 80360

COOK UP A STORM Easygoing and friendly Epsom male, 60, 5'10", non smoker, young looking, good sense of humour, enjoys country walks, music and socialising, seeks a tender female, for love and TLC. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 173858 or send a text to 80360

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Friendly, charming Surrey male, 60, 6'3", slim/medium, enjoys the quiet things in life, searching for a warm-hearted, cuddly female, to share laughter, romance and great company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 164000

UNDER THE STARS Solvent, trustworthy and easygoing Epsom male, 61, 6ft, medium build, own home, enjoys dining, theatre, music and more, searching for a similar woman, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 143338

MUST HAVE HAPPINESS Widowed, professional Richmond male, 61, 6'3", likes the cinema, pubs and restaurants, looking for an attractive, bubbly and caring female, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 152309

IT COULD BE FOREVER Single chap, 61, 5'11", medium build, from Redhill, likes the simple things in life, looking for an easygoing and loving female, for companionship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 190968 or send a text to 80360

SOLID AS A ROCK Charming Irish male, 63, living in Croydon, enjoys rugby, golf, tennis and more, searching for a nice, sociable lady, 40-60, to share the best things in life. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 111401 or send a text to 80360

NERVOUS BUT EXCITED Upfront and genuine Surrey male, 64, likes the great outdoors, cars and life, would love to meet a sincere, happy woman, who is outgoing and just about ready to settle down. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 116145 or send a text to 80360

PENCIL ME IN Slim, semi-retired Sutton gent, 65, charity worker, own home and car, solvent, likes reading, art, places of interest and writing, seeks a friendly, caring lady, for lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 152309

SOMEONE TO HOLD ON TO Friendly, smart, romantic and solvent Surrey male, 66, 6ft, slim build, N/S, GSOH, seeking a slim, feminine, modern lady, for friendship and to build a loving and happy romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159931

BEST THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Caterham guy, 66, N/S, 5'11", easygoing and considerate, enjoys cooking, theatre, sport, dining and travel, seeking a bubbly, positive and caring lady, for laughs & enjoying life. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112226

PICK-ME-UP Happy and solvent Surrey male, 67, own home and car, divorced, enjoys 60s music, bowling and cooking, seeking a vibrant, sincere lady, to share a happy life together. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 101747

COUNTRY MATTERS Down-to-earth, caring and kind Sutton gent, 69, widowed, enjoys socialising, weekends away and visiting the coast, would like to meet a warm and honest lady, for company and smiles. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 169477

FOR THE TAKING Smart, warm and attractive Sutton Widower, 70, varied interests, seeking a nice, honest lady, for friendship, company and perhaps more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103713

FRESH START Down-to-earth, honest and loyal, 71 year old male, would like to meet a slim, loyal, youthful, easy-going female for friendship, evenings out, cinema, theatre and meals out. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 186880 or send a text to 80360

TAKE IT EASY Dependable and helpful Thames Ditton guy, 73, calm natured, with many interests in life, just looking to meet an organised, good-natured female, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 172446

TEA FOR TWO Genuine, caring, easy-going, 76 year old Carshalton gent, slim build, 5'7", own car, enjoy going out for meals, days out, cosy nights in television and music. Sees a lady, 65-75, for company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 179253 or send a text to 80360

DREAMS COME TRUE Kind-hearted, down-to-earth Thornton Heath male, 84, would like to meet a tender female, for love and TLC, for company, friendship and to enjoy outings with. Are you the one? Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 180198

Women seeking women

A BETTER WAY Straight female, 35, outgoing, would like to meet straight females in the Croydon area, 35-40, for company and socialising. Enjoys clubs, theatre, shopping and dining out. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 180431 or send a text to 80360

THE RIGHT CONNECTION Looking for LTR with a woman, a 31yr old female who loves to laugh, relax and talk. Send me a message and let's connect Surrey. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 865987 or send a text to 80360

THE NAME OF THE GAME Kind, sensitive, adventurous and creative Walton-on-Thames girl, 41, loves music, art, cinema, concerts, travel and more, looking for a loving and thoughtful woman, for true love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 161212

Men seeking men

ONE IN A MILLION Outgoing and friendly, 21 year old Morden male, 5'10", fair hair, blue eyes, like sports, football, travel, coast and countryside. Would like to meet a guy for fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 188462 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE CIRCLE Fit and genuine Leatherhead male, 52, 6ft, divorced, polite and sincere, would like to meet a like-minded male, intelligent and active, for fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132398

THE RIGHT RECIPE Down-to-earth, friendly Croydon male, 62, 5'8", non smoker, GSOH, would like to meet a genuine, fun-loving and considerate male, to share fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 171207 or send a text to 80360

SWEET ME OFF MY FEET Smart, considerate and funny Epsom male, 64, now searching for an outgoing, interesting and smart-thinking lady, for good times and romance. Could you be the right man for me? Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 152831 or send a text to 80360

THE PERSON WITHIN Friendly and fun Hampton man, 65, 5'7", 11st, enjoys social drinks, days out and most things in life, would like to meet a similar man, for fun times, cosy evenings and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 150556 or send a text to 80360

IMPORTANT NEWS from TWO'S COMPANY

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We have had a great time matching up thousands of our readers over the years, after all over 1 million people have registered with us since we published our first dating page way back in 1990, but all good things must come to an end.

If you are an advertiser and have replies waiting we will be keeping your retrieval telephone lines open for an extra 20 days so that you can still pick up any replies that have been left for you.

Who knows, we may be back at some time in the future, but for now we wish you a very fond farewell and good luck in your search for your future partner.

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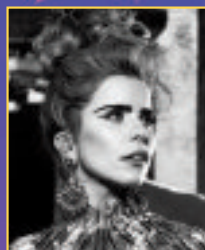
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NATURE NOTES: Legendary broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, pictured left, is hosting the annual Environment Trust talk, *Wild Neighbour*. This year's theme is urban wildlife and Sir David will focus on Kingston's wild parakeets. Joining Sir David will be Elly Berry and Judy Pudifoot from BBC Two's *Young Vets* who will discuss the best course when discovering injured or abandoned wildlife. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of the talk and a selection of Sir David's books will be available to purchase and be signed by the host himself.

● **Wild Neighbours with David Attenborough; Rose**

Vibe SHORTS

Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; May 16, 2pm; from £19; rosetheatrekingston.org.

THRILLING TALK: Lynda La Plante is talking crime writing next month. Initially trained as an actress at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, La Plante's scriptwriting breakthrough came in the early 1980s when she created six-part robbery series, *Widows*.

Following *Widows'* success La Plante became one of the country's most sought-after crime writers. Her 1987 debut novel, *The Legacy*, was followed by a string of international best-sellers and her television projects include award-winning series *Prime Suspect* that starred Helen Mirren. Her latest standalone novel, *Twisted*, continues her run of international bestsellers.

● **Time to Talk – Lynda La Plante; Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; May 4, 6pm; £8; rosetheatrekingston.org.**

LUNCHTIME GIG: An Ella Fitzgerald-inspired jazz singer is performing at a free lunchtime concert. Ewa Plywacz is a

third year Kingston University student and has been classically trained for 12 years playing piano. Her performance is set to deliver a mix of classic jazz, funk and contemporary pop.

● **Variety Cafe – Ewa Plywacz; Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; April 15, 1.15pm; free; rosetheatrekingston.org.**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL: Artwork created to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp is going on display at Kingston Museum. The work, made by Kingston residents and students, aims to keep the memory of those killed in the Holocaust alive.

● **Keeping the memory alive through art; Kingston Museum,**

Wheatfield Way; everyday until April 23; free; andrew.williams@kingston.ac.uk.

HISTORY TOUR: Learn the history and see the historical sites of Kingston with this one-off guided tour. A trained guide will be taking the tour.

● **Historical Tour of Kingston; begins in the Market Place outside the All Saints Church gates; April 12, 11am; call 020 8399 0160.**

TEACHER EXHIBITION: Paintings and prints by former Kingston Grammar School teacher Victoria Ward will be on display.

● **Baxter Gallery, Kingston Grammar School, London Road KT2 6PY; April 10 and 13, 10.30am to 4pm; victoriawardart.co.uk.**

Vibe

THE ABSENCE OF WAR

● **Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston; April 14-25, times vary; £9-£26; rosetheatrekingston.org, 020 8174 0090**



With election fever gathering pace, Cyril Nri talks to ROSS LOGAN about the political play, *The Absence of War*, which comes to the Rose Theatre later this month

REDALERT

Hindsight, as it has been said many times before, is a wonderful thing.

Back in 1993, when David Hare's *The Absence of War* first premiered at the Royal National Theatre, many critics regarded it as the weakest installment of his trilogy of state-of-the-nation plays.

The piece, about another ill-fated Labour election campaign, was deemed too "journalistic" and that the protagonist, George Jones, was actually just then-party leader Neil Kinnock re-imagined as a London bachelor.

Hare, who had been given access to the inner workings of Kinnock's doomed bid for No 10, has always defended the play, claiming it should be viewed as a classic.

It has been cheekily revived ahead of this year's election and it seems critics and

audiences have finally got onboard with the playwright's thinking.

The Absence of War, a co-production by Kingston's Rose Theatre, Sheffield Theatres and Headlong theatre group, comes to Kingston for an 11-night stint this month.

Cyril Nri, who plays Oliver Dix, George Jones' chief of staff, says: "The problem when it was first performed was that there wasn't enough distance. You need a bit of distance to see this as a work of art."

"It's still set in 1992. He [Jones] has some of the attributes of Kinnock, but you have to remember this is George Jones. He's a different person. It's not just about a particular location or time."

"It's the rise and fall of a man." In a career spanning 32 years, Nri has appeared in some of Britain's most iconic TV shows. He played Graham, a barrister friend of Miles and Anna's in cult 90s drama *This Life*, and spent four years as Superintendent Adam

Okuru in *The Bill*, between 2002 and 2006.

Most recently, Nri was outstanding in Russell T Davis's excellent *Cucumber*, a seven-part Channel 4 drama about gay middle-aged men living in Manchester.

Neither is he a stranger to the stage, having studied at the Bristol Old Vic and started out in the Royal Shakespeare Company.

This will be his first time on the Rose Theatre stage.

"What's great about this play is it's not only a tragedy but a farce," says Nri.

"And I think the performance by Reece Dinsdale [George Jones] is actually a thing of wonder. I think it overshadows both John Thaw and Malcolm Storry [the two actors to previously play George Jones]."

"Maybe because they were both far too close to the time and Reece had a chance to look at it in a historic manner, and put it into the story."

CYRIL NRI

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER STORIES VISIT kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe

STRICTLY SPEAKING

After entertaining the public with the cha-cha-cha, charleston and a show dance in this year's Strictly Come Dancing final, Pasha Kovalev embarks on his latest UK tour, writes *Laura Proto*.

Life Through Dance will transport the audience into the world of ballroom and Latin dance.

The show is a packed journey through life and love, complete with the glitter and sparkles you would expect from the ballroom, expressed by the language of dance. The production from the reigning Strictly

Come Dancing champion will feature unique and complex choreography, sensational and emotional music and specially-made costumes.

The professional ballroom dancer is no stranger to stepping away from the Strictly studio and the watchful eyes of Craig Revel-Horwood and Len Goodman, having previously toured the UK.

Kovalev says: "It's my fourth year of doing a show. Every year I redesign it and do new choreography and create new costumes."

"This time the show is Life Through Dance and it is a show which I am hoping to use to dig deeper into things we do every day, like meeting new people or making friends and falling in love."

"I think dance is a great way to do that and each

dance is a different personal characteristic. Each characteristic in the dance will help people relate to things that happen in their lives."

Kovalev and his dance partner Anya Garnis will be joined by three couples on stage, who "really do the show justice".

He adds: "This will be for all the family. It is a family show and kind of based on Strictly. The young will love it as well as the grandparents."

But the question on all Strictly Come Dancing fans' lips is will his winning celebrity partner, television presenter Caroline Flack, be joining him on the tour?

He says: "I think she has

her own things going on and own commitments, so she won't be appearing."

"It was lovely winning Strictly. It was my third final in the four years I have done the show, but you know what they say, third time lucky."

"Dancing for millions of people on camera is great, but you don't really feel the reaction from them. Audience members are in the studio, but you present your dance towards the camera."

"In the live performance, you can feel the energy of people who come to watch the show. When they get into what you're doing, it makes you put your heart and soul into it and you can feel what they feel. It is a feeling of unity."

The **Vibe** interview **PASHA KOVALEV**

● **Life Through Dance** ○ **Richmond Theatre, the Green, Richmond; April 23, 7.30pm; £24.90 to £29.90; atgtickets.com/venues/richmond-theatre** ○ **New Wimbledon Theatre, the Broadway, Wimbledon; April 28, 7.30pm; £24.90 to £29.90; 08448 717646, atgtickets.com/venues/new-wimbledon-theatre**

It was lovely winning Strictly

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PROPERTY

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Online estate agent, eMoov, has released their first Property Hotspots Index of 2015.

The research conducted by eMoov.co.uk monitors the change in supply and demand for the most populated locations across the UK, by monitoring the total number of properties sold in comparison to those on sale.

In his recent budget announcement Mr Osborne highlighted that the "Northern Powerhouse" had begun to outgrow the south.

This tale of two halves is highlighted within eMoov's latest Hotspots Index, as the South dominates the top ten hottest spots, while the North accounts for nine out of ten of the highest climbers over the last three months.

The New Year is often associated with change and 2015 has seen a shake-up within the top ten.

Bexley has been dethroned from the number one spot, where it has sat since eMoov launched its first Property Hotspots Index, back in February 2014.

Although it still came a reputable sixth in the standings, Bexley (62 per cent) has been ousted by Sutton, which tops the table with a demand for property at 67 per cent.

The two London hotspots are joined in the top ten by a number of



other outer London boroughs and commuter friendly towns.

The other locations in the top ten include, Cambridge (66 per cent), Watford (64), Bristol (63), Reading (63), Guildford (59), Aylesbury (57), Havering (57) and Hillingdon (56).

It would seem the mass emigration from the centre of London to more affordable outer regions and beyond, as predicted by eMoov in their previous Hotspots Index, is starting to become apparent in the property market.

One borough of London that is feeling the effects in particular is Wandsworth. At 32 per cent, demand for property has dropped by -11 per cent since December.

This figure does place Wandsworth outside of the top 50 Hotspots.

One contributing factor to its gradual decline is likely to be the area of Nine Elms. With a property demand of just 12 per cent, Nine Elms is the coldest spot in the UK. This will be a surprise as it is

due to benefit from the planned extension of the Northern Line.

eMoov predict the extension, once nearer completion, will increase demand for property in the area. But it seems that those already selling their property in Nine Elms, may have jumped the gun and increased the price in anticipation. The resulting inflation in house prices looks to be a factor influencing the low demand in the area at present.

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Detect property defects

Hunters have come up with a list of five property defects to look for.

Damp: Keep an eye out for penetrating damp or bridging of the damp proof course (DPC).

A property's external wall should have a damp proof course, and the ground levels need to be at least 15 cm below this.

Roof: It's a good idea to take a pair of binoculars with you to a viewing, so you can try and make a good judgement of it's state.

Look for areas of uneven, missing or cracked tiles, and ask if you can have a look in the loft.

Chimneys: Chimneys can be very expensive to repair. Unless there is only a minor repair required, you will probably need scaffolding.

Stand directly in front of the chimney and see if it's plumb - older chimneys often start to lean, meaning one side is more exposed to the elements than the other.

Electrics: Try and find out how old the electrics are by looking at the consumer unit - if it is made of metal and has ceramic wired fuses, then it is likely to be at least 25 years old. This just means that it may need upgrading.

Central Heating: Find out if the house has system boiler or a combination boiler. If you don't know, turn on a hot tap and see if the boiler fires up. Combination boilers last around 10 years and system boilers about 20, so work when it will next need replacing.

APP:

For tablet or smartphone



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Computer generated image depicts London Square Teddington. Details are correct at time of going to press.



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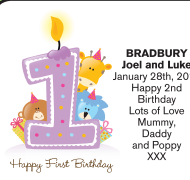
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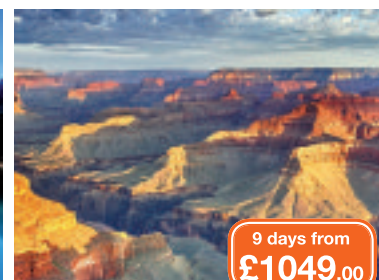
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STAR IN A CAR: Actor Michael Brandon

Detecting success

Michael Brandon is best known for his role opposite his now wife Glynis Barber in the 1980s detective series *Dempsey and Makepeace*, writes **Matt Westcott**.

The American actor is currently starring in *View From The Bridge* by Arthur Miller, which is touring the UK until May 2. Brandon will also be seen on BBC2 in May when the second series of *Episodes* with Matt Le Blanc is screened. He plays network head Elliot Salad.

Visit michaelbrandon.net or follow him on Twitter @MrMBrandon

What was your first car? I bought my first car from my Dad. He had a garage in Brooklyn, New York. He had a different car every week, usually called the bombs.

They were perfectly running vehicles he maintained for loaners while he repaired customers' cars. At 17 I asked him to find me a car and the car he found was a '58 Buick Super. It cost me \$300.

I named it the white elephant. It had biggest backseat ever. It was a good car for a drive-in movie.

How many times did it take to pass your test? My father taught me in an old '59 Ford taxi. He drove to a big cemetery and gave me the wheel. He said 'you can't kill anyone here, they're already dead'. I took driver's education in high school so I got a junior licence at 17.

I passed my first test in the UK as well in 1985. Bill Wyman and I drove at a charity function and one of us blindfolded the other giving directions. We scared the audience out of their seats. We cheated and had a great time.

Who would be your ideal fantasy passenger and where would you go? I have two answers. One, Lewis Hamilton and the best 50 tracks in the world and two, my wife on a holiday driving through France.

What is your dream car? I've always wanted a Porsche Carrera. I had a '64 Porsche cabriolet and the memories still shimmer. A new one would fit the bill.

How would you describe your driving style? Fast cruising. I like a long drive, pretty scenery and peace of mind. A lot of people

don't get into surrendering to the chauffeur within, and letting the road take you. American roads do that like Highway One up the coast of California.

Tell me one driving anecdote from your past? I had a very unusual car. Some called it an Apollo, others an Italia. It had a body by Pininfarina and an engine by Ford Shelby Cobra. It looked like a Ferrari and flew like the wind. Around 1976 a bunch of us with good motors drove up the coast in the early morning hours from LA to Edwards Airforce Base to watch the Shuttle take off. At times we averaged 145mph.

What do you drive now? I drive a BMW 650 Convertible. It is a good cruiser for going to the cities I am playing in *The View* from the Bridge currently. I also enjoy the school run which is 115 miles. It's a good time to relax. The trouble these days are the cameras and road works, which are spoiling the joy of driving. It's like when they fenced in the Prairies and men could no longer just ride across the plains.



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Land Rover makeover

British designer Sir Paul Smith has created a one-off Land Rover Defender with a multi-coloured exterior and a bespoke interior finish.

There are 27 different paint colours on the body, most of which were mixed specially for this vehicle from Pantone colour references provided by the designer.

"I wanted deep rich colours," he said, "but at the same time I wanted them to work together, yet be surprising."

"The Defender is a British icon, which is something I'm exceptionally proud of. I keep a Defender at my home in Italy which is in the middle of the countryside, so it's the perfect vehicle to cope with the rugged terrain."

On the inside, black leather is accented by blue contrasting

stitching and a selection of design 'Easter eggs' added to the package on Smith's instruction. "There are lots of little hidden details throughout. For example, there is an image of a set of keys printed inside the glove compartment."

"Then there is a hand-painted bee on the roof, which is another little tongue-in-cheek reference to the countryside and the

heritage of the car. Also, the traditional Defender clock has been replaced with a Paul Smith fascia. My designs are known for their attention to detail, so I didn't want this Defender to be any different."

The Defender is ceasing production this year due to tightening emissions regulations. A replacement is as-yet unfinished and unconfirmed.



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Nervous last stand for Old Emanuel

Old Emanuel need Old Caterhamians can do them a favour on the final day of the season on Saturday.

The New Malden-based club beat Old Blues 11-10 on home soil last week to leave them two points behind Surrey Two leaders Old Free-

mans, who were 54-17 winners at home to Economicals.

A final day win for skipper Jamie Clarke, *right*, and his men at Old Walcountians and defeat for the leaders at third placed Old Cats would hand them the title and promotion.



More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk

PLAY-OFFS: Surbiton ready to face old foe

Just another game

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS

samos@
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Surbiton sharpshooter Alan Forsyth knows his side do not have the best of records against near neighbours Wimbledon, but that will count for little when the two teams clash in the Championship play-off semi-finals this weekend.

Surbiton lost 4-1 at home to Wimbledon in the regular season, before the Sugden Road outfit were forced to battle back from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 in the return fixture.

Wimbledon keeper James Bailey and Surbiton shot stopper David Kettle made crucial saves in the second match when the result could have gone either way.

Wimbledon captain Ben Hawes and Ben Marsden will line-up against their old club this weekend.

But despite the obvious rivalry, Forsyth believes what has past will have no bearing on his side's championship title ambitions.

"It wasn't a great result at home in the league to be fair and we are just looking at this game the same as any other," he said.

"We are taking this game by game. It is frustrating to lose any game no matter who it is against.

"We battled back well in the second game and were lucky enough to get a draw, but it could have gone either way in the end.

"Those results have no



Familiar faces: Surbiton's Alan Forsyth tussles with the Wimbledon defence when the two teams drew 3-3 earlier in the season

bearing because this is cup hockey and it is a one off game."

He added: "I wasn't around when the likes of Ben Hawes and Ben Marsden were at Surbiton, so them playing against us means nothing to me particularly.

"But if I was a player playing against my old team I would want to show them what they are missing, so that there might be something in that."

Michael Watts, fresh from triumphing with Ireland in the Hockey World League quarter-finals in San Diego last week, netted a late

equaliser as Surbiton drew 1-1 with Canterbury in a practice match last Thursday.

The match was played on the iconic blue pitches at the Olympic legacy Lee Valley hockey & tennis centre in Queen Elizabeth Park in as preparation.

Head coach Todd Williams' men then won 4-3 on penalties in a game played under European tournament rules.

Surbiton must reach the final to bag one of two spots likely to be available to English teams for next year's EuroHockey Club Champions Cup.

It is now or never for Ks

Boss Tommy Williams has admitted Ks can afford no more mistakes and only nine points from their last three games will be enough for a chance at a Ryman Premier League play-off spot, writes Stuart Amos.

A 2-0 defeat at Hampton & Richmond Borough on Monday compounded the disappointment of Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Canvey Island.

Ks are four points adrift of the top five, but face fifth placed Grays Athletic on the final day of the season for what could be a straight shoot out for a play-off spot.

"Looking at other results we still have a chance. Our season is not over," said manager Williams.

"We need to dust ourselves down quickly and take maximum points on Sunday to



Off: Adam Doyle got a late red card on Monday

stand any chance."

Ks host East Thurrock United on Sunday.



Reach for the stars: Kingston & Polytechnic Harrier Jessica Westley lets fly to win the hammer and, inset, Luca Di Libero

SP90490

Kingston's Jess is best in Tooting

Kingston & Polytechnic Harrier Jessica Westley started the track & field in style with a new personal best in a new discipline to win the Herne Hill Harriers Open U17 girls hammer on Saturday.

The 15-year-old threw 34.66 metres to win at Tooting Bec - 7.84m further than her nearest rival.

Clubmate Rhianna Reynolds also got her year off to a good start with victory in the women's long jump

thanks to a leap of 4.73m from the 15-year-old.

Kingston's Luca Di Libero, 14, threw 7.77m to win the 3.25kg shot event, while his father Renzo set a mark of 11.14m to finish second in the senior men's shot.

SPORTSbrief

GOOD SEASON: Corinthian Casuals boss Matt Howard expected better from his men than a pair of 2-1 defeats to struggling East Grinstead Town and rock-bottom Horsham over the Easter weekend. Casuals are still three points from setting a new club points haul record at this level and are now unlikely to finish in the division's top 10. "I'm really disappointed but on the flipside, we've had a great season," he said.

SOLID FIRST: Surbiton Ladies rallied to finish fifth on the EuroHockey Club Champions Cup debut over the weekend. Surbiton drew 1-1 with Spanish side Club Campo de Madrid in their quarter-final on Friday, but crashed out 2-0 on penalties. They responded to beat CSP Ismailovo of Russia 3-2 and University College Dublin 4-1 on Sunday and Monday.



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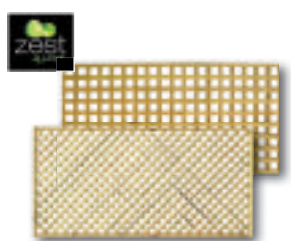
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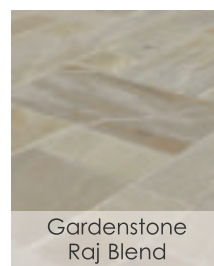
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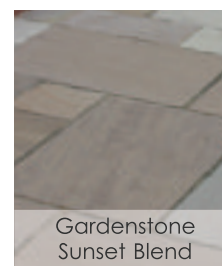
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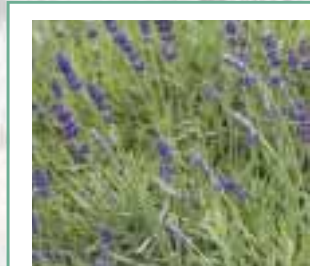
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